

News Budget From K... Horses Being Killed... Stewart District... Feed Short... Bulk of Goods at... In Bond - Stag... War.

Premier Justified

His Resignation as Minister Tendered Over Six Months Ago.

His Election Committee Explain Why It Was Not Pressed.

Induced To Remain in Office To Carry Out Railway Policy.

A small group of citizens stood on Government street yesterday afternoon absorbed in a political discussion. One gentleman, a vigorous opponent of the government, asked in a voice which cried "who ran might bear," why Prior had not kept his promise to resign if the Canadian government was not carried out in its original form?

This reiterated question another member of the group answered by a pertinent query. "Would you be surprised to hear," he said, "that Col. Prior placed his resignation at the disposal of his election committee while the House was in session?"

"Yes, I would," cried the positive one, "and I'll bet you a new hat you can't lose it."

A candid reporter, who was one of the original critics, did not linger to hear further argument. He went straight to the Premier's residence and inquired if the statement made by his defender was correct.

The Colonel smiled. "Well, perhaps it is time that I should take steps to vindicate myself in the eyes of the public for my position has been very much misunderstood, and I have suffered a great deal from the misrepresentation of my political opinions both in and out of the House. My lips have been sealed up to the present, out of consideration for the wishes of my friends, but now that a change has come, and that I occupy the position of leader, I feel that the time is opportune to state to the public as to my position and motives. At the same time I do not deem it necessary that I should make a statement. My word has been so often doubted of late that I am beginning to have serious apprehensions as to the value of my words. I will, however, say that I have no doubts, but if you will see the members of my election committee, Messrs. D. R. Ker, H. H. Macdonald and J. R. Mackenzie, they will tell you the facts of the case. You can then take your own liberty to explain the position which I have occupied at their earnest request and desire for the past six months."

The reporter learned that Mr. Ker was out of town, but saw the other members of the committee, and secured the following statement: "You can see that Prior has suffered in silence from an honest sense of the duty which he owed to his supporters."

Mr. Hugh H. Macdonald said: About the first of June Col. Prior sent his written resignation to us, the members of his election committee, with a request to act upon it as we deemed most advisable in the interests of the province, and of Victoria. His resignation was addressed to the Premier, and enclosed to Mr. D. R. Ker, chairman of the committee. It was not unqualified in every way, and it might have been handed to Mr. Dunsmuir at the date of Mr. Dunsmuir's retirement.

Upon the receipt of the resignation, we were all of opinion that it was held to which Col. Prior was invited, and at which he was present. He expressed his wish to resign, and we were all of opinion that the committee was unanimous in its opinion that it was his duty to do so, while there was any possibility of securing the building of the Canadian Northern Railway.

Approaching Completion

Tyee Smelter at Ladysmith Will Soon Be Ready for Work.

Barring Unforeseen Delays Furnaces Should Blow in About 15th.

Everything in and around the extensive premises of the Tyee Copper Co. smelter is taking on an appearance which indicates that the active process of matting-machinery is not far distant. All the machinery has been installed, and the boiler and engine work is well advanced.

Mr. W. H. Price, another member of the committee, made the following statement: "I always felt assured that Col. Prior would vindicate his promise in regard to the Canadian Northern as soon as the opportunity presented itself, and I am glad to see that he has done so."

Mr. D. R. Ker is absent from the city but from enquiry at his office the Colonel learned that he had returned to Alberta, and the following despatch was sent to him: "Victoria, Dec. 4, 1902. D. R. Ker, Strathcona, Alberta: Prior states he handed his resignation, without any string, to committee on June 3. This is a fact."

Colonist. The following is Mr. Ker's reply: "I have read the statement in the Colonist of Dec. 4, 1902. Yes, and resignation is in my possession at present time. D. R. KER."

Municipalities In a Muddle

Nominations at Many Places in Manitoba Are Declared Illegal.

Thomas M. Parker of Winnipeg Tries to Kill Himself - A Lost Engine.

From Our Own Correspondent. Winnipeg, Dec. 4.—There is considerable excitement in the cities, towns and villages outside of Winnipeg in regard to the nominations for mayors, reeves and councillors for the coming year. The date of nomination was changed one week before election, instead of two weeks. Many voters wish to resign, and the committee is unable to do so.

Thomas M. Parker, proprietor of Parkers dye works, attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself in the chest with a revolver. He was taken to the hospital, but is now recovering.

St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, will hold a social on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. W. Millard, of Lindsay, Ont. It is also understood that there is hope of such a call being favorably considered.

RECIPROCONY CONVENTION. Getting Anxious About Trade With Canada. Detroit, Mich., Dec. 3.—Arrangements for the reciprocity convention to be held here on December 10 and 11, under the joint auspices of the National Reciprocity League and the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, are rapidly approaching completion.

COAL REPORT

The following is the coal report of the month of November, 1902, compiled by J. W. Harrison, coal trade reporter, San Francisco.

The steamer "Somona" left for Australia, viz.: Following, 3,600 tons; Hydelaide, 2,750 tons; Somona, 488 tons. As this has been the colonial coal delivered here since the Ditton arrived in October 10th, it is evident that there is no scarcity of other grades, and the market price is affected.

The annual meeting of the Home Nursing Society was held yesterday at the City Hall. The election of officers resulted as follows: President—Mrs. H. Barnard; 1st vice-president—Mrs. G. G. Galtley; 2nd vice-president—Mrs. W. H. Baker; secretary—Mrs. M. P. Galtley; treasurer—Mrs. M. P. Galtley.

NANAIMO COAL SHIPMENTS. Following are the foreign coal shipments from Nanaimo for the month ending 30th November, 1902.

LADYSMITH COAL SHIPMENTS. Following are the foreign coal shipments from Ladysmith for the month ending 30th November, 1902.

Increase in Granby Output.

Fifteen Hundred Tons a Day Will Now Be the Ship-ment.

Two More Furnaces to Be Put in Operation at Once.

Phoenix, B. C., Dec. 3.—(Special.)—Beginning tomorrow the Granby mines in this camp will send out 36 cars of ore or over one thousand tons, an increase of 50 per cent. over the daily tonnage of the last several months, and next day 52 cars or over 1,500 tons of ore will be shipped.

H. N. Galer, assistant manager of the mine, says that the output will be maintained at this rate for some time to come. He says that the output will be maintained at this rate for some time to come.

Grand Forks, B. C., Dec. 3.—The Cascade Home Sewing Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday, December 12th, at 8 o'clock in the evening at the Grand Forks Hotel.

Rich Providence Ore. Carload Producers \$141 in All Values. Owners of the Providence mine, situated on the Carleton Place, have just received a carload of ore valued at \$141.

Is Against Prohibition

Partial Returns Show That Ontario Has Failed to Support Act.

Not Enough Enthusiasm to Get The Electors to the Polls.

Majority in Favor of Enforcing Act But Not Enough to Carry.

Toronto, Dec. 4.—Ontario will have prohibition. Through the action of the Ontario Legislature, a bill was passed on Monday, December 1st, which will set the date for the election of a provincial assembly to decide on the question of prohibition.

Without the stimulus of party organization, and the absence of political excitement in the campaign, the task was too much; but nevertheless, the bill was passed by a majority of 50 to 40.

On the same basis the 92 constituencies of Ontario would give a majority of 72,000 votes in favor of prohibition. Incomplete returns show that 50 out of 94 constituencies show a majority in favor of prohibition.

STRIKE COMMISSION. Miners' Witnesses Continue Their Evidence. Scranton, Pa., Dec. 4.—At today's session of the anthracite strike commission, the witnesses continued to give evidence.

SHAMROCK III NEARLY BURNED. Fire in Denny Shipyards Does Immense Amount of Damage. London, Dec. 4.—Shamrock III, Sir Thomas Lipton's new challenger for the White Horse line, was nearly burned to a cinder today in a fire which did great damage to the shipyard.

THE DETECTION OF CRIMINALS. Good Work Being Done By Members of the Local Force. In connection with the apprehension of the man Johnson, who was arrested on Monday, December 1st, the local detective force has been very busy.

FOR OSAKA SHOW. Dominion Commissioner Will Sail This Month. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 4.—(Special.)—William Johnston, Dominion commissioner to the Osaka exhibition, will sail for that city on Monday, December 8th.

Yates Street Illuminated.—By an arrangement with the business firms on Yates street, the strings of electric lights crossing that thoroughfare are now burning every evening.